

2334

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Yasumitsu IKEGAMI

Application No.: 09 142,464



Group Art Unit: 2834

Examiner: M. Budd

Filed: September 9, 1998

Docket No.: JAO 40853

For: PIEZOELECTRIC RESONATOR, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING SAME  
AND PIEZOELECTRIC RESONATOR UNIT

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated November 10, 1999, Applicants  
hereby elect Group I, claims 1-7 and 14-20. The election is made with traverse.

Applicant submits that claims 1-7 and 14 and claims 8-13 and 21-26 do not lack unity  
of invention because they recite common special technical features. The Examiner's attention  
is directed to MPEP page AI-36, Annex B, Part 1, where it is indicated that:

Unity of invention exists only when there is a technical relationship among  
the claimed inventions involving one or more of the same or  
corresponding special technical features. The expression "special  
technical features" is defined in Rule 13.2 as meaning those technical  
features that define a contribution which each of the inventions,  
considered as a whole, makes over the prior art... The method for  
determining unity of invention under Rule 13 shall be construed as  
permitting... in addition to an independent claim for a given product, and  
an independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture  
of the product... Thus, a process shall be considered to be specially  
adapted for the manufacture of a product if the claimed process inherently  
results in the claimed product with the technical relationship being present  
between the claimed product and claimed process. The words "specially  
adapted" are not intended to imply that the product could not also be  
manufactured by a different process. (Emphasis added)

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Applicant submits that there is a special technical relationship present between the product of claims 1-7 and 14-20 and the process of claims 8-13 and 21-26, and that the method of claims 8-13 are specially adapted for the manufacture of the product of claims 1-7 and 14.

In particular, claim 1 recites a piezoelectric resonator comprising leads being provided with a flat leading end portion which opens in a substantially U-shaped opening toward a leading end, connected substantially in parallel with an electrode, the electrode opposing one surface of the piezoelectric resonator element, and a connecting layer being formed with a conductive resin between the leading end portion of the electrode, the piezoelectric resonator element being supported by the leads so that a gap is formed between the supporting member and the piezoelectric resonator element. Claims 8 and 21 recite a method for manufacturing a piezoelectric resonator comprising providing a gap between the supporting member and the piezoelectric resonator element, and forming a connecting layer of a conductive resin between the electrode and flat leading end portions of the leads, connected substantially in parallel with the electrode, opening in substantially a U shape toward a leading end thereof, the electrode opposing one surface of the piezoelectric resonator element.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the restriction requirement of claims 1-7 and 14-20 and claims 8-13 and 21-26 is improper. Applicant requests substantive consideration of all of claims 1-14.

Prompt and favorable consideration of claims 1-14 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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